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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Ahmedinejad was among Hostage-Takers in 1979 - Hurriyet
US Embassy Says No Handcuffs Used In Incirlik Incident - Hurriyet
Turkish Academician Reveals Armenian Fraud - Hurriyet
High Tension at the Parliament - Sabah
Buyukanit: "Certain EU Countries Support the PKK" - Sabah
Baku Promises Direct Flights and Investment to `TRNC' - Sabah
Direct Flights to Start from Baku to `TRNC' - Milliyet
Broader Middle East Scholarships from the US - Milliyet
Government-YOK Dispute Continues - Vatan
Tensions Rise in Ankara - Aksam
Edelman: "Turkey's Policy Matches US Policy" - Aksam
Azerbaijan Extends Brotherly Support to `TRNC' - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS

AKP Insists on Infringing the Constitution - Radikal
Big Gesture from Azeri Administration to `TRNC' - Radikal
EU Fails to Fulfill Pledges to Turkey - Cumhuriyet
Harsh Reaction from PM Erdogan to YOK Chief Tezic - Yeni Safak
Edelman: "We had Great Cooperation with Turkey" - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Turkey-Azerbaijan Relations: Papers continue reporting on PM Erdogan's visit to Azerbaijan. "Milliyet" reports that Azerbaijani President Aliyev announced that direct charter flights from Baku to the `TRNC' would begin soon. Aliyev also confirmed that Turkish Cypriots would be able to enter Azerbaijan on their `TRNC' passports once the relevant regulations have been amended. PM Erdogan said that the Turkish border with Armenia would not be opened before the Nagorno-Karabakh problem is solved, and he called on Armenia to remove its troops from the disputed region. Aliyev announced that Azeri companies would open offices in northern Cyprus, adding that `we cannot endure the isolation of our brothers in Cyprus. Azerbaijan will fulfill its responsibilities on this issue.'

Turkey-EU Relations: "Cumhuriyet" accuses the EU of not fulfilling its pledges to Turkey. The paper claims that the EU presented Turkey with a new condition in its EU roadmap on Wednesday. Ankara was pleased that the framework document affirmed that negotiations with the EU would start on October 3, but the Turkish side was disturbed by the link made between the Cyprus issue and the accession negotiation process. "Cumhuriyet" complains that in 1999 the EU had announced that the Cyprus issue would not be a criterion for Turkey's EU entry, but the framework document shows that Cyprus is `the most important criterion' for Turkey. General Buyukanit Accuses EU on PKK: Land Forces Commander General Yasar Buyukanit said yesterday that `there are those supporting threats to the territorial integrity of our country under the guise of human rights.' He added that `some of these initiatives' are being supported by `EU countries.' Buyukanit claimed that the PKK has achieved `ideal conditions' in northern Iraq, where it is `supported by some neighboring countries and members of the EU.'

Ambassador Edelman's Remarks in the US Senate: "Aksam" and "Yeni Safak" cover the remarks by former US Ambassador to Turkey Eric Edelman before the Senate Armed Forces Committee. Ambassador Edelman said that while the US had been `very disappointed' by Turkey's decision on March 1, cooperation between the two countries remains strong in many areas. Edelman said he believes Turkey `shares the same goals' as the United States for a stable, politically united, and sovereign Iraq.'

PM Erdogan Comments on Iranian Election Result: Asked by journalists about the Iranian Presidential election result during his visit to Baku, PM Erdogan responded as follows: 'Everyone was expecting a different result, but this is the will of the people. I am not in a position to say 'I don't like the result so it shouldn't be this way.' Whether you like it or not, everyone who believes in democracy has to respect the statement made by the Iranian people.'

Ahmedinejad Accused As Iranian Hostage-Taker: Most papers write about allegations from several of the Americans held hostage at the US Embassy in Tehran in 1979 that the newly elected President of Iran was among the captors involved in the hostages' interrogations.

Tension Between AKP and CHP: All papers report that the governing party AKP stirred new tensions yesterday by passing a controversial regulation in the parliament that limits debate on specific provisions of draft laws. The move was designed to accelerate the approval of legal reforms required by IMF. "Radikal" notes that the Constitutional Court has annulled similar regulations twice in the past. Opposition party CHP deputies say the regulation would harm lawmakers' freedom of expression.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Fort Bragg Speech; Iran

"A Pathetic Situation for Bush"

Fehmi Kuru argued in the pro-government/Islamist "Yeni Safak" (7/1): "It is hard to imagine how the remarks of President Bush could possibly raise the morale of the American people, especially at a time when 6 out of 10 Americans believe the Iraq war as a mistake. But the neo-con writers, columnists, and TV commentators are having a good time praising the Fort Bragg speech. Just watch out for those neo-cons in Turkey. Bush talked about the pressing need to attack Iraq and topple Saddam. The justification used to be weapons of mass destruction. But this time President Bush gave 9/11 as reason. He did not even bother to draw a link, direct or indirect, between the events of 9/11 and Saddam Hussein. Bush's approach is a clear indication that the problems he created for his own country and for the world are not going to end in the foreseeable future. President Bush listed the reasons why the US should remain in Iraq. He was hoping that none of us would notice that these reasons were all consequences of the invasion of Iraq in the first place. . Bush made this speech at a military base, where military people constituted a majority of his audience. It was interesting to see the many unsmiling faces while he was delivering his remarks. The audience, mostly military, gave no applause or any sign of enthusiasm. Given the situation, there is nothing to justify high morale. This is a pathetic situation for Bush."

"The Iranian Conundrum"

Turker Alkan observed in the liberal-intellectual "Radikal" (7/1): "The new Iranian president talked about the worldwide spread of the Islamic revolution. It is extremely worrying if he is serious about 'exporting revolution.' But it remains to be seen whether this rhetoric is an indication of a shift in Iranian foreign policy or just domestic posturing. . Even if Ahmadinejad is serious about exporting the revolution, it is probably not an achievable goal. It can achieve nothing but create more trouble and increase the international isolation of Iran. The possibility that Ahmadinejad can put Iran on good terms with the US and the Western world is very remote. At least he might present himself as a reconciliation figure for a while. . Turkey should watch Iran carefully and evaluate developments there in a cold-blooded way. We should be ready for every possibility. If the Iranian regime moves toward a more radical position, it will enhance Turkey's importance in the eyes of the US and the EU."

MCELDOWNEY